

Sacred Heart Home School Association  
Board Meeting  
October 20, 2010

HSA President, Jennifer Daniszewski, called the meeting to order at 7:05p.m. Jennifer Daniszewski led the Opening prayer.

Attendance:

Sheri Wright	Gina Darby	Julie Will
Jeanne Cossentino	Annie Derzak	Diana Schulz
Mary Renehan	Michele Hunter	Janice Gonder
Elaine Bayarena	Lisa DeGasparre	Kathleen Gower
Maggie Kartanowicz	Dave Rhinehart	Tina Mester
Jennifer Harrison	Trisha Morano	Maryann Antoldi
Jennifer Daniszewski	Dana Rampolla	Chris Windsor
Rorye Jordan	Tracey Folio	Terri Rinehart
Aileen Eskilden	Shellie DeLuca	Kim Clark
Carol Anne Donahoe	Bonnie Nixon	Andrea Justis
Heidi Gage	Jessica Nemshick	Jay Parker
Louise Cohen-Silver	Sandy Selby	Nancy Reed
Jan Peck	Tavia Stiegler	Teresa Novak
Jill Ceroll	Enid Mswia	Gaetane Brunson
Shawnta Bates	Karen Crist	Patti Brocato
Dick Chmiel	Terri Regler	Tina Wehland
Eric Ginsberg	Dona Ginsberg	Colleen Geldmacher
Renee Yancy	Denise Wilt	Diane Endres
Audra Burns	Andrew Burns	Jamie Cardillo
Faye Stone	Theresa Burtis	Kacee Stephan
Lisa Noel	Lani Mellendick	Amy Jackson
Kathleen Dorsey	Allison Zimnoch	Teresa Randall
Alicia Mezu	Mary Pat McManus	Angela Gonzalez
Ike Ezumba	Angela Ezumba	

Jennifer Daniszewski asked if Administration reports could be held until the end due to an 8<sup>th</sup> grade matter that needed to be addressed during the Parent Forum, and Mrs. Wright agreed.

**Cafeteria Report:** Nancy Reed, Teresa Novak and Jay Parker

- Samples of the drink, Switch, that is available at the snack window for \$1per can, were distributed. These are carbonated juice drinks, not soda.
- Lunch sales need to be increased as the Cafeteria is not meeting budget yet, but we are up over last year.
- Please feel free to email comments, concerns, or suggestions to Nancy Reed at [nreed@shgschool.org](mailto:nreed@shgschool.org), or you can call her at the school.

- Menu is online at the school website on the Home page and on Parents Page. The snack menu will be on the web too.
- Special Days will be returning this year - In November we will be celebrating Cookie Monster's Birthday on November 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- All meals do meet the federal nutritional requirements.
- Lunches can be prepaid for the week and/or month. The menu calendar can also be printed, and you can circle the days and meals your child would like for the entire month. If your child is absent on a hot lunch day, you will be credited for the meal.
- Concerns were brought up about snacks being purchased at the end of the class's lunch time – and it was requested the snack window be aware of the timing and items being bought, so perishables will not go uneaten or taken back to class.

## **FACULTY REPORTS:**

### **Primary School Report:**

- There is a noon dismissal on Friday, 10/22.
- Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade conferences are this Friday, 10/22.
- Interims were sent home on 10/11.
- 1<sup>st</sup> grade reading workshop is on 11/19/2010.
- Halloween Parade 10/29/2010 at 2 p.m. for kindergarten thru 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Kdg thru 2<sup>nd</sup> grade will parade through the school in costume and then outside down the sidewalk (gym to lobby entrances) – parents are welcome to come see.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> grade is preparing for reconciliation.
- Anne Gearheart and Spirit will be collecting OLD, USED towels for the animal shelters soon. Date to be announced – it will be after Halloween. If your child is not in the lower grades, you can send towels in to Mrs. Artes' room.

### **Secondary School Report:**

- Two field trips are planned thus far - 4<sup>th</sup> grade is going to the Science Center and 5<sup>th</sup> grade is going to Biz Town.

### **Middle School Report:**

- Yankee Candle Fundraiser is for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Feel free to buy – envelopes were sent home with all children. You aren't expected to sell, but please consider buying. This is the 8<sup>th</sup> grade's biggest fundraiser to pay for their New York Trip
- Thank you for Dining Out and Car Wash participation.
- Future Dining IN/Carry OUT at Martha and Mary's on 11/16 from 4-6 – Please remember to tell them you are with Sacred Heart.
- Thanksgiving Service Project collections are on now – please send items in – a flyer was sent home.
- St. Jude Mathathon is going on now- books will be coming home next week.

**SCHOOL BOARD:** Jill Cerroll- no report

**DEVELOPMENT:** Jan Peck

- Playground Brick Project – with Tracy Folio - Cost of the bricks has been researched and they range from \$23.40 to \$45.18 – The largest size is the 8x8 brick. It appears as though the costs haven't increased since the last time we purchased them. HSA would charge \$75 for the smaller brick and \$100 for the larger brick. The profit will go to the maintenance of the playground. They will be installed over the summer and there are 315 available.
- Viridian – Alternative Energy Supplier – If you choose Viridian as your energy supplier through the designated Sacred Heart website, the school/parish will receive \$2 for every family each month. This is a new and ongoing fundraiser for the school and parish to split these proceeds. If 500 families opt in = \$1000/month in funds for school/parish. Viridian is 20% green, and cheaper than BGE. Viridian = .099/kwh and BGE = .1191/kwh. There is no annual contract, and no cost to cancel. Bill is still through BGE. You can sign up at [www.viridian.com/shgparish/default.aspx](http://www.viridian.com/shgparish/default.aspx) Information is on the Sacred Heart website.

## **H.S.A. BOARD REPORT**

The September minutes were approved.

**President:** Jennifer Daniszweski –

- Innisbrook sales closed and we are close to meeting budget. We get 50% of the sale. We are budgeted to profit \$14,000 from the sale, but it looks like we made \$12,500.
- Open House was on Sunday 10/17 for prospective students & families to tour the school – was well-attended with 25 families. Thank you to all who helped.
- Directory will be delivered the week of 11/1. The suggestion was made that the emergency card (which is used to compile the directory) be required to be brought in on the first day of school and the card be mailed out in July with the school supply list.
- Toy Drive – Carol Anne Donahoe - We had fewer toys this year and less participation than in previous years. It was held for 1 week for Northminster Church. It was thought perhaps that was due to not having an email blast go out, even though it was on the website. We will continue to collect on Tuesday and Thursday mornings for the next 2-3 weeks. The need is for unbroken, gently used toys. Toys can be left during DROP OFF times on TUES AND THUR. No large items please like bikes and Little Tikes kitchen things.
- Tonight is the HSA meeting for out of uniform tomorrow 10/21 – please highlight your child's name for credit.

**Treasurer Report:** Aileen Eskilden

- Budgets are in the back for pick up and available for everyone to review.
- Our major fundraiser for the year, Innisbrook, is finished. Money is still being collected and expenses aren't submitted or reflected in the budget. We are projected to be at a profit of \$12,500.
- The Crab Feast which is NOT a profit event – went well and expenses were low. As a result the HSA actually is projected to have profited approximately \$2000.

- HSA dues aren't coming in as fast as we need them. Please send in as soon as possible. Just put in an envelope marked H.S.A. membership – only \$5 and it goes to fund programs for your kids.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Going Green:** – Carol Anne Donahue

- Paper Retriever is going well this year with collecting paper from the classrooms. We are still struggling with the issue as to who can take the paper from school to the bins in the church side parking lot. Last year it was 1-3 parents doing this, but parents can't continue doing this. Suggestions were made that teachers do it if they don't mind, while others suggest maintenance staff do it or students for community service hours do it. One suggestion was made for the Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts; however, they had been approached about this last year and did not want scouts missing class time to do this. This is a Fundraiser for the school – we do not pay for the recycling removal, and it is intended to be a joint parish/school effort.
- Paper retriever would like us to do a paper drive. We will discuss doing this in the future.
- 11/15 is America Recycles Day – mark your calendars – and we will do tips with the kids.
- We will hand out water bottles that week to all of the kids, in lieu of the Field Day gift.
- It was suggested that we be more proactive in the lunch room with recycling. Several suggestions were made: making signs, investing in a larger recycling can, recycling providing service hours with the Middle School. The main concern is where to take the recycling after lunchtime.

### **Lunch Room:** Jessica Nemshick -

- You must have your STAND card with you. If you got your card in 2005, then your card is about to expire. Please renew NOW.
- More volunteers are needed please. Sign up and please come whenever you can – if you can get away from work.
- A suggestion was made to hire one person for the lunch room duty since there are too many times with only 1 or 2 parents. Another suggestion was made for “Mandatory Volunteer Hours,” a concept used at other private schools. Typically this doesn't have a positive effect on the parents or children and leads to a decrease in volunteering and school spirit. Best suggestion was to make an effort to volunteer just 1 lunch duty per month. Also recruit friends to sign up and volunteer on your day with you and to have a PERMANENT substitute lined up for those days you can't come.
- Please make an effort to have kids take home what they don't eat so parents know. This will go in the next newsletter.
- Lunch duty is open to ANYONE who is STAND-trained – an announcement will be made to the parish recruiting volunteers.
- Another suggestion for raising Volunteers was to personally call everyone in the directory.
- MOST NEEDED DAYS : Tuesday and Friday

**Outreach:** Jennifer Daniszewski

- 10/27 -10/31 is the Used Coat Collection week.
- Halloween candy 11/1 -5 – get rid of all of your extra Halloween candy by sending it to St Ann’s.
- The Adopt-A-Family program will run from 11/22 to 12/15. Everything will be gathered in the Media Center on 12/15 to be delivered that day.

**Santa’s Workshop:** Jennifer Daniszewski

- Runs from 11/29 through 12/3
- Parent volunteers are needed for those days and you must be STAND-trained.
- Also need set up help the Tuesday before on 11/23 – set up people don’t need STAND training.
- Please come in and help your kids shop. Students will mainly come to shop during their library times.

**Rebates/Cultural Arts/Focus:** – Trish Morano–

- Store Bonus Card Designate Challenge was sent home this week -go on to the website and designate Sacred Heart on your bonus cards
- Cultural Arts- we will be doing an age-appropriate assembly on anti-bullying
- Don’t forget about FOCUS every Friday right after drop off, and we are finished by 9 am.

**Spring FundRaiser:** – Jennifer Daniszewski

- Mark your calendars for April 9, 2011 at Oregon Ridge from 7-11pm.
- We are looking for SPONSORS and DONATIONS now. Contact Beth Yates, byates@hamiltonassoc.com.

**ADMINISTRATION REPORTS:**

Email Blasts – Mrs. Wright

- Requests were made last year to limit the number of emails sent out. People said they would go to the web for information. This year we are now learning that people would like to be emailed if there is something on the web of importance with a hyperlink.
- We were also unaware the lunch menu was difficult to find.
- For the NEW Website this year - Go to PARENT PAGE as your Home Page. It will have menu, newsletter- both administrative and HAS, and all pertinent parent information. Also, the administrative newsletter is on the right hand side of the MAIN home page.
- Going forward – an email blast will go out Wednesday mornings giving links to the newsletters and information.
- It was asked how long it takes to post the HSA newsletter to the web. It should only take 3 days to get up on the web. If it is not posted within 3 days, please email Mrs. Wright.

Middle School: Mrs. Wright

- Presence of clergy and seminarians are in the school. Fr. Jicha performed the Mass and made himself available to the children yesterday. We will have reconciliation and Thanksgiving prayer service coming up.

#### Alert Now: Mrs. Wright

- If you have provided a Comcast email for emergency contact for school issues, then you may have an issue with the Alert Now emails. Please provide us with another email until Comcast works out the spam issue. You need to call Comcast and specifically tell them you want email from Alert Now and the school. The Diocese is trying to work out the issue with Comcast, but until then another email address may be a better alternative.

#### Annual Fund: Mrs. Wright

- Thank you for donating already- whatever level on which you can give helps. People have asked why it doesn't reduce tuition. That is because it wouldn't be tax deductible. Each year the board, in determining budget, also figures how much will need to be derived from the Annual Fund. It helps offset increases in expenses that can't be controlled. For this year, it will be for the laptops in the classrooms. It is less expensive to buy in bulk - they are due to be replaced now and we have 40 -50 to replace.

### **PARENT /COMMUNITY FORUM:**

#### Title 1

- Mrs. Wright: Title 1 funds are regulated funds that are provided to schools by the state/county – mostly public schools. It entitles funds to go to schools for academic need. Baltimore County does not provide money to non-public schools; instead they provide services to the eligible non-public schools. The determination of Title 1 for us is based on where a student would go to school if they were in public school. As it is, we have two teachers working with 9 students who qualify for the assistance. Since we have even just 1 student that qualifies for this educational assistance, we are provided with services such as the Flu Mist. We also receive Professional Development courses for teachers – though there is a tremendous amount of paperwork to do for the reimbursement through the Title 1 program. None of our students are attending for free. The only way they get tuition assistance is the same way everyone gets assistance.

#### Admission Policy

- Mrs. Wright: Admissions policies have remained unchanged this year as to last year. All recommendations are checked, and screening is still performed on each new student.

#### Parking Lot

- Mrs. Wright: The parking lot closes at pick up on school side when the first child gets to the lot. It is not always 2:55 – for safety sake it closes at that time, but it is sometimes necessary to close a minute or two earlier if a child is on the lot.

- Parents please do not address the safeties- if there are any issues with the safeties, please contact the teacher on site.
- It was requested that a letter go out about DOUBLE DROPPING – and drop off rules. In previous years, emails were sent out several times to reiterate policies. This year we have not had that happen. Please focus on following the rules in the parking lot.

Crossing Guard- Jennifer Daniszewski

- indicated this has been taken care of prior to the meeting.

Transfer Students

- It was asked if there used to be a policy in which the school did not accept transfer students in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Mrs. Wright responded with: we look at grades, referrals, comments, & recommendations from the previous school. In the past, we have accepted transfers into the 8<sup>th</sup> grade from other Catholic schools or out of town relocations. This is the case this year.
- It was asked if transfers are admitted only if there are openings. Mrs. Wright responded with: It is case by case- and that seats are not “just being filled.”
- In response to the playground altercation between two 8<sup>th</sup> graders, the 8<sup>th</sup> grade parents are concerned – Mrs. Wright cannot speak publicly about specific occurrences or children. If you would like to speak with her privately, please make an appointment. There were no patterns of behavior to indicate this coming. There are two sides to this story that only Mrs. Wright is privy to. She assured everyone the children are safe, the discipline has been handled, and the details cannot be divulged. While it is a difficult situation, parents must believe in the Administration of the school and have the trust in their experience that the situation is being dealt with in such a manner to insure it will not happen again.
- It is brought up that the 8<sup>th</sup> graders who did not participate felt punished, since they were all restricted to the blacktop during recess in the days following the incident. Mrs. Wright responds with: The administration’s decision to do this was for safety – to enable the administration to keep a closer eye on what was going on during recess and ensure it did not happen again. Louise Cohen - Silver– Sacred Heart’s full time Guidance Counselor responds with: The decision to have the children on the blacktop was so it wouldn’t happen again because there was talk on Facebook about a recurrence.
- It was suggested that the Administration have more follow up with the parents, a meeting with the children, and hold a forum for all grades. Administration urges parents to reconcile as a community and understand this matter has been fully addressed. We are a Christ-centered Catholic School, and forgiveness is one of Jesus’ important teachings, and one that parents can pass on to their children, particularly with regard to the 8<sup>th</sup> grade altercation.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:24 pm.